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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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	FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
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4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
5	Plaintiff,
6	-vs- Case No. 07-CR-116
7	TIMOTHY SWEETLAND, Madison, Wisconsin February 13, 2008
8	Defendant. 1:20 p.m.
9	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
10	STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING HEARING HELD BEFORE CHIEF JUDGE BARBARA B. CRABB
11	HELD BEFORE CHIEF TODGE BARBARA B. CRABB
12	APPEARANCES:
13	For the Plaintiff: Office of the United States Attorney
14	BY: AUSA ROBERT ANDERSON 660 West Washington Avenue City Station, Ste. 303
15	Madison, Wisconsin 53703
16	For the Defendant: Jones Law Office BY: ATTORNEY WILLIAM JONES
17	P.O. Box 44188
18	Madison, Wisconsin 53744-4188
19	Also present: Timothy Sweetland, defendant Rich Williams of Pretrial Services
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23	Lynette Swenson Federal Court Reporter
24	United States District Court 120 N. Henry St., Room 520
25	Madison, WI 53703 (608) 255-3821
∠ ⊃	(000) 233-3021

(Call to order)

THE CLERK: Now calling Case 07-CR-116-C-01.

United States of America versus Timothy M. Sweetland is called for sentencing. May we have the appearances, please.

MR. ANDERSON: United States appears by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Anderson.

MR. JONES: Mr. Sweetland is here in person and with his attorney William Jones.

THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Sweetland, before we do anything else, I want to take this opportunity to advise you that you have the right to appeal from any sentence imposed on you today. If you think this sentence is illegal in any respect, you can appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Jones is obligated to continue to represent you at Government expense unless he would be relieved of that obligation by the Court of Appeals, and if the Court of Appeals did relieve him of the obligation, it would appoint new counsel to represent you, still at Government expense. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor, I do.

THE COURT: And have you read the pre-sentence report and the addendum?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you have any objection to anything in the pre-sentence report that Mr. Jones did not raise on your behalf?

THE DEFENDANT: Everything Mr. Jones has done I understand.

THE COURT: Okay. And Mr. Jones, for the record you've read the pre-sentence report and the addendum?

MR. JONES: Yes.

THE COURT: And if I understand it correctly, you have two basic objections; one is to the not counting the convictions in California as related, and the other one is whether Mr. Sweetland should get a two-level upward adjustment because of his role in the conspiracy?

MR. JONES: That's correct, Your Honor. Also somewhat tied in with the priors in California, you know, I do raise the issue that even if it were to be added, he should be given a reduction back to criminal history category III, that was in another filing based upon his involvement -- therefore it would overrepresent. But it all is -- the two basic ones are I think he should be criminal history category III no matter how you go about it, and I don't think he should be labeled a leader.

THE COURT: Mr. Anderson, for the record you've read the presentence report and the addendum?

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And the Government had no objections?

MR. ANDERSON: That's correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you want to say anything about the criminal history and how -- and considering the two California convictions as related?

MR. ANDERSON: Yes. The two California convictions, they don't fall under the criteria for counting them as one or counting them once as a conviction. They are not the same crime, they are not the same course of conduct. They are not even sentenced together by the reference to the record here. He was — he pled to and was sentenced on one and went on with the other case for separate disposition on that.

So these are different events, not part of a single common scheme or plan. They weren't consolidated for trial and sentencing, and so as noted in the Pretrial Services response, it does not fit the criteria for grouping those together. So I think that is correct as to the criminal history.

So I think the criminal history calculation is correct in regard to that, and I do not believe that his

criminal history overrepresents his past history and that it appropriately represents his history looking at the offenses and the time frame between them, and it also correctly accounts, gives him the two criminal history points because he was on status supervision with one of those offenses during the time that he was involved in this conspiracy charge as well. So all his criminal histories are correct.

THE COURT: Mr. Jones, do you want to add anything?

MR. JONES: Well, Your Honor, just -- I provided -- the two -- the moving him into category IV occurred as a result of the addendum. He was originally a category III, and so I don't mean to be ambushing the Court with this information, you know, but I did provide a letter indicating why I think he should be in category III on February 11th. I just -- since it's February 13th, I want to make sure the Court has it. I can certainly summarize.

THE COURT: I thought I read it, but I don't see it -- here it is, yeah.

MR. JONES: Docket number 42.

THE COURT: This is what I read yesterday,

right.

MR. JONES: Okay. This case, there was no

intervening arrest between these two. I don't think people -- anyone contests that. They were not -- they were consolidated for trial. It just one -- one charge, the drug charge was resolved before the forged checks case logistically. I suppose if they had thought ahead of time, they could have just said well, let's keep that one open until you decide whether you want to go to trial on the checks or not. They could have handled it a different way. And I guess my point is they end up with five points instead of three really as a matter of really just timing, not severity, not as a specific desire to give him a certain sentencing for each one separately.

He got time served on the drug one and they moved on with the checks. I think they should be grouped. They were consolidated under the same charging document, but when he resolved his drug case as a matter of logistics, they gave it a new case number, and I think that's a subtle, I guess, calendaring or scheduling handling of those two issues, not a clearly separated two different nongroupable convictions. So I think --

THE COURT: Well, my understanding is that there were these fraud charges outstanding.

Mr. Sweetland was arrested. That was after a drug purchase. And that at the beginning he was charged for

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both the drugs and a couple of fraudulent checks or stole, fraudulently passing stolen checks, I'm not sure which it was, and that he pleaded to the drug charges. But in the meantime, the California authorities had discovered a large number of additional instances in which he had been passing stolen or forged checks. So they made that into a new Indictment that he was later sentenced on.

MR. JONES: I don't know about that last part about them discovering more and therefore making a new Indictment, but I guess the question is if it's consolidated originally for trial but then separated for any kind of number of reasons, does that make them nongroupable? If they had just amended that Complaint and kept them together, they would have been grouped, you know, they would have been resolved and he would have been sentenced on, you know -- so admittedly, I'm arguing a technical point, but grouping really is kind of a technical point. And he was originally charged with one document -- with one charging document. was not an intervening arrest. And I think that that standing alone would group them, but also if you look at the totality of the circumstances surrounding it, it really wasn't, in my opinion, a logistical maneuver in that well, he got time served on the drugs and they

moved forward on the forging of the document or the use of stolen checks.

And so because of that, I think it should be grouped and only given three points.

THE COURT: Any further comment, Mr. Anderson?

MR. ANDERSON: I guess Mr. Jones's argument is

well, if this had happened a different way, it would be

treated differently, but that doesn't -- that doesn't

substantiate that these fall under the criteria that the

guidelines set forth. And we could engage in any number

of if things were different, this would apply

differently, but that's not what happens here.

So I think under the guidelines and existence at the time that we are applying here, this is counted appropriately in the PSR.

which says if there's no intervening arrest, which there wasn't here, prior sentences are counted separately unless, and then (A), the sentence has resulted from offenses contained in the same charging instrument. And I understand Mr. Jones to be saying that that's what happened, that these were part of the same charging instrument, but for some reason they were separated after Mr. Sweetland or in connection with his sentencing on the drug charges. So it's sort of an unusual -- it's

a very unusual situation.

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So Mr. Sweetland would still be subject to --MR. ANDERSON: If I might to offer the distinction which I think the addendum is trying to That sentence the Court just read refers to point out. sentences resulting from offenses contained in the same charging instrument. That's anticipating that the sentences, each of the sentences that were imposed, came out of the same charging -- came out of the same charging document, and as the Court has noted, it's unusual, but what we have here is we have an original charging document which contained both distinct offenses, they aren't part of the same course of conduct, but they're in the same charging document. But he pleads guilty to the drug counts and the other counts are dismissed and charged in a separate charging document, which ultimately means that each of the sentences, the sentencing on the drugs and the sentencing on the burglary-related, forgery-related charges are sentences on separate charging documents. That's the distinction that I think is in this case. But it is unusual that they originate in a charging document, that they are in the same thing, but that's not what the end result is.

THE COURT: Well, if they were counted

together, which is what was done in the pre-sentence report originally as I understand it, then

Mr. Sweetland's criminal history score would be VI; is that correct, Mr. Williams? But you did not include in that -- I'm looking at paragraph 40 of the pre-sentence report -- you didn't include in that any criminal history points for Mr. Sweetland having committed this offense while he's on probation.

AGENT: That's correct, in the original pre-sentence report.

THE COURT: I'm sorry?

AGENT: In the original pre-sentence I did not assess two points for being on probation at the time of the offense. I did count the two convictions in California as being separate.

THE COURT: Could you come over here a minute, Mr. Williams?

(Pause 1:35-1:43 p.m.)

THE COURT: Mr. Williams, why don't you show those charts to Mr. Anderson and Mr. Jones. (Pause)

Now that you've seen those, did either of you want to say anything further?

MR. JONES: I guess I would. The point that
Mr. Williams was making was that in the course of
handling after this one arrest and one charging document

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and it ended up being reissued, there were new charges that were added to the next one. Instead of two checks, they put together all the checks and added on. But I don't think that that affects the grouping issue. think the grouping issue has to do with what the charging document is. And you know, I mean really my point is why do we group? I think we group because when a person is arrested and charged, it shouldn't end up being more than three points, just, you know, that arrest occurs and there's kind of a course of litigation and everything that occurs, because from that point forward, and he ends up getting his sentence, and it shouldn't just kind of add up because of the way the Court kind of handles it or if they have to reissue it or this -- Mr. Sweetland informs me, and I have no reason to doubt it, it makes sense, these new charges came up and he pled guilty to the charges, but they held it over pending resolution of the checks, and in the process of him showing up to plead or to be sentenced to everything, they said we have these new ones and the judge said well, let's just handle what we've got together and you can bring all these checks back in another thing.

My point is, and I mentioned in the letter, this is a issue of logistics, not severity. This is I think why

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we group. He got arrested, they started prosecuting him for crimes, and it ended eventually and that should be three points. I guess that's just where I fall.

THE COURT: Mr. Anderson, anything else? MR. ANDERSON: No. I would just say it's more a matter of facts, not logistics. If he had been ultimately convicted on the original Indictment or charging document on both offenses, even if they weren't related, his argument would make sense. But if charges are dismissed off the charging document and there's a separate charging document issued, on which he's convicted, as I said earlier, we have two separate charging documents that ultimately result in convictions and the offenses themselves aren't related, have no similarity. There's no connection between the pattern of conduct, so there's no other -- none of the other factors apply. So I don't think -- it's a matter of the fact, not the logistics.

THE COURT: Well, I'm trying to think, the purpose of grouping related crimes is partly because the idea is that you're looking to see whether somebody engaged in criminal conduct was arrested and convicted and then reengaged in criminal conduct and that's important in determining the criminal history because you're trying to decide whether somebody is likely to

reoffend after conviction and sentence.

So when two crimes are separated by an intervening arrest, they are always treated separately. It gets more difficult in these areas where they are treated similarly, either in the charging document or at sentencing. This one is peculiar, but I think in view of the number of charges that were added to the document after Mr. Sweetland pleaded guilty to the drug charges, I will treat them as not related.

However, I think that to compensate because I can because I think it's a close question, I will probably reduce or impose a variance because I think category IV does overstate Mr. Sweetland's criminal history.

Anything further then? You wanted to talk about his role in the offense.

MR. JONES: I did. And are you ruling that there's a variance? Because there's other issues I think should also be compelling to put him in category III, but if you just said you're going to use Rule 3, I don't need to speak any more on that.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. JONES: Yes. I did just want to talk
briefly about his role in the offense. I know
Mr. Anderson wanted to -- is planning on presenting some
things, too, so I'll try and anticipate that. But as

far as a leader organizer, I'm providing an affidavit from Mr. Sweetland that I think goes to that, and it was attached to that I believe February -- have you read it? It was February 11th. I filed an affidavit from Mr. Sweetland about his role in the offense. It's relatively brief. It was in a separate letter. It was Document 43.

THE COURT: I don't think I've seen that. Do you have another copy of it?

MR. JONES: I do. Like I said, it's short.

THE COURT: Oh, I do have it. I do have it.

MR. JONES: I'll come back and get it.

THE COURT: Thanks.

MR. JONES: Sure. The electronic filing is

15 nice.

THE COURT: But confusing.

MR. JONES: Yeah.

THE COURT: And I did read this.

MR. JONES: In addition, I did point out in the original objection to the PSR that there are certain admissions made by -- Mr. Sweetland is being labeled as a leader organizer based in my opinion on what Lauren Pitchell says, because the only other person in this conspiracy is Mike Kitchen and Mike Kitchen says he really didn't know what was going on in California. He

just placed an order or decided how much drugs he wanted and they would show up on his doorstep. He would send the money. So Lauren Pitchell admits that she's a large-scale drug dealer. She said she was moving 12 ounces of meth a week; some of it to Mike, but the other half, the other six ounces to people around southern California. And she admitted she was the one who obtained the drugs from Mike Kitchen and she was the one who would ship the drugs to Mike Kitchen. And eventually Mr. Sweetland wasn't even part of this operation because she and Kitchen went around his back and she was getting the money.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. JONES: So Mr. Sweetland wasn't even involved in that role. But my point is the PSR really does rely I think on one item and one fact that is true, and that is, Lauren Pitchell would have never met Mike Kitchen without Tim Sweetland. Those two would have never got together without Mr. Sweetland. But I don't think that fact alone labels one a participant in a conspiracy, the leader of it, or even the organizer of it.

I'm certainly not trying to raise anyone as more of a leader than anyone else in this operation. I'm not trying to minimize Mr. Sweetland's participation. But I

think it's unfair to label him as the leader or kingpin when Mike Kitchen was the one who decided how much drugs was going to be shipped.

THE COURT: He's not being -- two points. The two-level increase doesn't make you a kingpin. All it does is say that you were a leader, manager, organizer, supervisor. It's the lowest level for an increase and I think, you know, not only did he put Mr. Kitchen and Ms. Pitchell together, but he set the price. He told Ms. Pitchell where to send the drugs, and he took a larger share of the proceeds. As I understand, at the beginning he was taking the lion's share of the proceeds.

So I think he qualifies for two levels. He certainly doesn't qualify for any more than two levels, but he does qualify for a two-level enhancement.

Anything else?

MR. JONES: Not within the PSR. But I did just have brief sentencing comments.

THE COURT: Sure, sure. I'm just talking about objections.

MR. JONES: Nothing else I don't think objecting to the PSR.

THE COURT: Okay. And Mr. Sweetland, is there anything you would like to say on your own behalf before

I sentence you?

THE DEFENDANT: I sent an affidavit to you which speaks everything I wanted to say.

THE COURT: That's all that you wanted to say?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Ma'am.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, a lot of the sentencing argument that I prepared was within the PSR because I really think that those were key issues that had to be presented. But I did also want to raise another -- the one last item that the Court does have to consider and that is the sentencing -- the possibility of sentencing disparities.

There are three people here. They were all participants in moving drugs from California to Wisconsin. Mike Kitchen, as I pointed out in my letter, ended up one year in jail with Huber as a result of his participation, and he's the guy actually selling it to people here in our state. Lauren Pitchell I understand gave her statement about Mr. Sweetland and to the best of my knowledge received somewhere 4 1/2 years, something like that. I think that a sentence that would go significantly more than Ms. Pitchell would be a disparity that would be unfair.

I argued that I think the PSR should fall within 57

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to 71 months. I know that you said that you felt that the two points should apply, and obviously you've ruled on that, but that doesn't still mean that you can't sentence below whatever range he falls in. I think that an appropriate sentence given his role, the sentencing — the other sentences that were handed out to the other people would be — an appropriate one would be 57 months.

THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: I think sentence within the advisory guidelines is appropriate in this case. The advisory guidelines are where they are because of the -not only the quantity of drugs, but Mr. Sweetland's history as we've seen. Mr. Kitchen was allowed to plead to state charges and receive a sentence there. Without his cooperation, this case wouldn't even be here. wouldn't have prosecuted a case here in federal court of the sources of supply of methamphetamine coming out of California. Without his cooperation, it would not have been possible because no one else knew -- no one else who got methamphetamine from Mr. Kitchen once it arrived here, had any knowledge or connection to or any information about his sources. That all came from Mr. Kitchen and whatever records and documents Mr. Kitchen could supply and explain, which was -- they

were actually extraordinary records that Mr. Kitchen maintained and was able to explain to us and provide detailed explanation of what was going on.

Because those records, in a vacuum, couldn't explain to us what negotiations, discussions, arrangements were made between any of the parties such that we would have been able to charge a conspiracy. So that is to that.

Ms. Pitchell, similarly her sentence was appropriate because of her different standing in terms of history and criminal history, and so I do recommend that the Court sentence within the guidelines, the advisory guidelines.

THE COURT: Mr. Sweetland.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: It's hard to figure out what kind of person you are because there's so much missing from your background, and there's a huge gap in which you had no run-ins with the law enforcement and that may indicate that you really were trying to live on the straight and narrow during that period of time or it may just indicate you were smart enough not to be caught.

But the first thing that struck me is that you're 59 years old and you're still dealing drugs. Seems to me to be an indication of a lack of -- definite lack of

maturity and lack of good judgment. I realize that you consider yourself a drug addict. I'm not so convinced that your addiction is as much a motivating factor in your distribution of drugs as is your desire to make money and an easier way than you might otherwise. But I hope you'll take advantage of the time you're going to have to spend in prison and get some use out of it.

Learn -- maybe get some better insight into why you're leading the kind of life that you are at your advanced age.

I accept the plea agreement on the basis of my findings that the offense of conviction adequately reflects your criminal conduct and the plea agreement does not undermine the statutory purposes of sentencing. In determining your sentence, I will take into consideration the advisory sentencing guidelines and the statutory purposes of sentencing set forth in 18 United States Code Section 3553(a).

The probation office has calculated the advisory sentencing guidelines correctly in the addendum to the pre-sentence report using the November 2007 manual. The base offense level is 26 because the offense and related conduct involved at least 50 grams but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine.

You recruited Lauren Pitchell to assist in sending

methamphetamine to Mr. Kitchen. You set the price, instructed her where to send the drugs, and took a larger portion of the proceeds. That conduct warrants a two-level increase because you recruited and directed Ms. Pitchell during the conspiracy.

You're entitled to a three-level downward adjustment because you've accepted responsibility for your offense conduct and the Government has moved for the additional reduction. Your total offense level is 25. Your criminal history places you in criminal history category IV; however, I believe that category overstates your likelihood of committing additional crimes.

With a total offense level of 25 and a criminal history category of IV, your advisory guideline imprisonment range is 84 to 105 months, but giving you a variance because of the overstatement of your criminal history takes you down to 70 to 87 months.

The amount of methamphetamine attributable to you falls near the high end of the drug quantity table for base level offense 26. This is your second conviction for the distribution of illegal drugs and you were on probation when you committed this crime, and also on bond for a felony case.

Considering the nature and circumstances of the

offense and your history and characteristics, I believe that a sentence of 87 months is necessary to hold you accountable for your criminal conduct, protect the community, and afford you the opportunity to participate in treatment programs.

As to Count 1 of the Indictment, it is adjudged that you are committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for imprisonment for a term of 87 months. I recommend you be afforded the opportunity for substance abuse treatment and that you be afforded prerelease placement in a residential re-entry center.

The term of confinement is to be followed by a four-year term of supervised release subject to the standard conditions. In light of the nature of the offense and your history of substance abuse, the following special conditions are appropriate:

You are to register with local law enforcement agencies and the state Attorney General as directed by the supervising probation officer. You are to submit your person, residence, office or vehicle to a search conducted by a probation officer at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner whenever the officer has reasonable suspicion of contraband or evidence of a violation of a condition of release. Failure to submit to a search may be a ground for revocation.

You shall warn any other residents that the premises you are occupying may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. You are to abstain from the use of alcohol and illegal drugs and from association with drug users and sellers and participate in substance abuse treatment. You shall submit to drug testing beginning within 15 days of your release and 60 drug tests annually thereafter. The probation office may utilize the Administrative Office of the courts' phased collection process. And you are to provide the supervising probation officer any and all requested financial information.

Further, it's adjudged that you are to pay a \$100 criminal assessment penalty to the Clerk of Court immediately following sentencing. You do not have the means to pay a fine without impairing your ability to support yourself upon your release.

Anything further in this matter?

MR. JONES: Your Honor, Mr. Sweetland is from California and I would ask, if you would, that he be placed in a facility closest to his home that would meet the other requirements.

THE COURT: I'll ask the probation officer to make that request known to the Bureau of Prisons.

MR. ANDERSON: Nothing else, Your Honor.

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MR. JONES: Nothing else.
             THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Jones, for your help
    in this case.
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             MR. JONES: You're welcome. It's my pleasure.
         (Proceedings ended at this time)
         (2:02 p.m.)
            I, LYNETTE SWENSON, Certified Realtime and Merit
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    Reporter in and for the State of Wisconsin, certify that
    the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the
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   proceedings held on the 13th day of February 2008,
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    before the Honorable Barbara B. Crabb, Chief Judge of
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    the Western District of Wisconsin, in my presence and
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    reduced to writing in accordance with my stenographic
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   notes made at said time and place.
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   Dated this 26th day of February 2008.
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                              /s/_
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                               Lynette Swenson, CRR, RMR,
                                     RPR, CBC
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                               Federal Court Reporter
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